

For A Communication

Apparently, Mike Mansfield, Senate Majority Leader, is very angry with foreign newsmen. Departing from his habitual calm, he has asked them to mind their own business.

Being a member of the Washington tribe of foreign newsmen, I have been wondering what is our business. Either we don't know it or we are performing it so poorly and so objectionably that even Mansfield's ire is stirred.

What we are trying to do is to report developing events and what they seem to portend for us if Sen. Goldwater wins. Some of us have also written about what we think he would mean to you. But this is only because we feel that what happens to this country is unlikely to leave us unaffected.

Some of the foreign newsmen (and I am one of them) have been here long enough to witness foreign policies developing on the physical assumption that no part of the world will remain untouched or unharmed if ever your thousands of bombs (and Russia's hundreds) go up on a destructive course. This was a wise conclusion which nearly everyone abroad appreciated and shared. That war could no longer be an instrument of political policy seemed a fine corollary.

This theme, born in the concluding years of the Eisenhower period, was groomed by President Kennedy until it acquired sophistication which was widely admired. This was a poor time for foreign newsmen. They had so little to criticize. So much to praise.

Now obviously you cannot have us praise your

peaceful policies and also your deviations from it which is what would happen if Sen. Goldwater succeeds.

We cannot but take notice of the implications of a policy which aims at "victory," hitherto adjudged unattainable. We have to take notice of a presidential candidate's pronouncement that, disbelieving in the process of history now working so fruitfully, he would, if the chance came, send a nuclear task force to roll back communism in Eastern Europe.

We have our crop of extremists. But our press and political leaders do not give comfort to the extremists. So when Sen. Goldwater praises the utility of extremism, he makes news not only at home but abroad.

The developing countries, just out of the colonial woods, have noticed a trace of arrogance and a disconcerting reliance on power in Sen. Goldwater's pronouncement. He would

appear to many as aiming at a global empire based on Washington's newly acquired nuclear missile strength.

We have also noticed that his economic theories, long discarded by the rest of the world, are of little avail to us. Nor have we much to borrow from his concept of government for, in our own situation, we put government to greater use than he would have us do.

The developing countries cannot also help fearing that if Sen. Goldwater's platform means what it says, he would give us economic assistance only on impossible terms. One of them is that he would have us rely entirely on the private sector, which, in many instances, is either nonexistent or too weak to bring about desired development at a desirable rate.

Truly, we are not meddling. We are only observing and drawing our conclusions for the consumption of our readers. This is our inescapable duty.

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